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Carmarthen Urban Sanitary Authority.

SEVENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Sanitary Conditions of the County of the Borough of Carmarthen

By

ELFYN T. JONES,
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.
Elfyn T. Jones, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Clerk to the County of the Borough of Carmarthen:
Howard B. Whtie, Esq.

Borough Engineer and Surveyor:
G. L. Ovens, M.I.M., C.E.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:
J. J. Healy, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:
C. P. Robinson, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

School Dental Surgeon:
Gwilym Evans, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Obstetrical Consultant:
Dr. Lloyd Davies, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector:
E. W. Francis, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Shops Inspector:
James Evans, C.R.S.I.

Veterinary Surgeon:
T. R. Thomas, M.R.C.V.S.

Food and Drugs Inspector:
D. R. Watkins, Chief Inspector.

Health Visitor and School Nurse:
Octavia Davies, C.M.B.

Dental Nurse and L.C.C. School Nurse:
M. F. Phillips, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Clerks to the Medical Officer of Health:
G. Griffiths.
J. C. Jones.

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council of the Borough of Carmarthen.

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944, which is in the form suggested by Circular 49/45 (Wales).

The question of housing accommodation becomes more and more acute. Houses which on account of dis-repair and insanitary conditions should long ago have been pulled down have now reached the state where they come under the Category of Dangerous Buildings, and in addition to being unfit on grounds of health are a menace to the safety of the inhabitants. I trust the Council will push on the building of new houses with great rapidity.

I wish to thank my colleagues and their staffs for their continued co-operation and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Camarthen Urban District Authority is comprised of the Parish of St. Peter's, and is 5,223 acres in extent. The area is largely rural and is undeveloped.

Population, Rateable Value, Etc.

The estimated population made by the Registrar General is 10,280. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the Rate Book is 3,060. The rateable value of the Borough is £62,943, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £252.

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.
Live (Legitimate) ...	181	93	88	17.6
Births (Illegitimate) ...	13	8	5	1.2
				Rate per 1,000 Live and Still) Births.
Still Births ...	3	2	1	15.2
				Death rate.
Deaths	140	61	79	13.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0.0
Other Puerperal Causes ...	0	0.0
	0	0.0

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1 000 live births—82.4.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—77.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—153.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—24.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—1.
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)—1.

Deaths in the Borough.

The number registered in the Borough during the year is 61 males, 79 females.

These figures are altered by inward and outward transfers, thus:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths registered in the area ...	123 ...	144 ...	267
Outward transfers	70 ...	72 ...	142
Non-civilian deaths	— ...	— ...	—
Inward transfers	8 ...	7 ...	15
	61	79	140

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Year by year the value to the Public Health Department and the assistance given by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service becomes more and more obvious. The laboratory is now an essential and vital factor in the maintenance of the public health. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the active and willing co-operation of Doctors Fry and Boissard.

Clinic (Maternity and Child Welfare and Education Committees).

The Clinic in Pond Street has continued to be widely used throughout the year.

Clinics are held as follows:—

(a) Child Welfare Clinic—Mondays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(b) Ante-Natal Clinic—Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
(c) Minor Ailment Clinic—Five times a week; School Medical Officer in attendance every Tuesday morning.
(d) Dental Clinic—Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.; Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
(e) Ultra Violet Light Clinic—Monday and Thursday morning, as required.

Attendances—Welfare Centre.

No. on register at the end of 1944—266.
No. of new cases under 1 year of age—152.
No. of new cases over 1 year of age—8.
No. of attendances by children under 1 year of age—1.432.
No. of attendances by children between 1 and 5 years of age—246.
Total number of attendances made—1.678.
Average attendances per session—34.4
No. of attendances by Evacuees (M/CW)—69.

The Public Health Department takes particular care with regard to both Premature and Illegitimate children, and the Health Visitor is particularly directed to visit the homes of both these categories so as to ensure that everything possible is done to maintain the children in a good state of health.

Maternity Service.

Attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic held on Thursday mornings were as follows:—

No. on Register—68.
No. of New Cases—59.
No. of attendances made—334.

The two beds in the Maternity Ward of the County Infirmary, Carmarthen, earmarked for expectant mothers from the Borough were utilized to the full, the total number of cases who were admitted being 57.

Four evacuated expectant mothers were admitted to the Amman Valley Cottage Hospital, Glanamman.

Nursery School.

The Nursery School continued to be well attended during the year. The average number of children who attended daily was 19.75. The Medical Officer of the School (Dr. Bryson) carried out regular periodical inspections, and in addition treated any child who had not already been immunised against diphtheria.

Water Supplies.

Continuation of chlorination of the water supply to ensure its safety was found to be necessary during the year.

A careful watch was maintained on the water supply of the Borough, and the following is a list of the samples taken and sent for bacteriological examination:—

SAMPLES OF WATER TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
13/1/44	Tap Water—47, St. David's Avenue	Bacteriological	Satisfactory.
13/1/44	Tap Water—Bont Fach Farm, Abergwili Road	,,	Unsatisfactory.
13/1/44	Water from tap in house, Llanstephan Road	,,	Uns tisfactory.
13/1/44	Tap Water—Municipal Buildings, John Street	,,	Unsatisfactory.
19/1/44	Tap Water—Municipal Buildings, John Street	,,	Good.
19/1/44	Tap Water—Bont Fach Farm, Abergwili Road	,,	Excellent.
19/1/44	Tap Water—Llanstephan Road	,,	Good.
27/1/44	Tap Water—Bont Fach Farm, Abergwili Road	,,	Unsatisfactory. Chlorination appears to be grossly inadequate.
27/1/44	Water from tap in house—Llanstephan Road	,,	Good fro drinking, but unsatisfactory as a sample of chlorinated water.
27/1/44	Tap Water—Municipal Buildings, John Street	,,	Unsatisfactory. Chlorination appears to be grossly inadequate.
27/1/44	Tap Water—Cattle Market, Carmarthen	,,	Good for drinking, but unsatisfactory as a sample of chlorinated water.
28/3/44	Tap Water—Carmarthen Park	,,	Excellent.
28/3/44	Tap Water—Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road	,,	Excellent.
28/3/44	Tap Water—The Clinic, Pond Street	,,	Good, but unsatisfactory as a sample of chlorinated water.
25/4/44	Water from 47, St. David's Avenue	,,	Fairly good.
25/4/44	Water from Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road	,,	Fairly good.
25/4/44	Tap Water—Johnstown School	,,	Unfit for use without purification.
24/5/44	Water from Public Supply Tap, Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road.	,,	Moderately good. Unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.
24/5/44	Tap Water—Johnstown School	,,	Unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.

Date.	Source.	Type of Examination.	Result.
24/5/44	Tap Water—The Clinic, Pond Street	Bacteriological	Unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.
18/7/44	Water from tap, 47, St. David's Avenue	,,	Good, but unsatisfactory for chlorinated water.
18/7/44	Tap Water—Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road	,,	Unsatisfactory. Chlorination inadequate.
20/7/44	Water from pipe in bank, rear of Mill Row, Llanllwch	,,	Satisfactory.
20/7/44	Water from pipe in bank, Llanllwch Mill	,,	Excellent.
22/7/44	Tap Water—Johnstown School	,,	Unsatisfactory. Chlorination inadequate.
28/9/44	Tap Water—Johnstown School	,,	Satisfactory.
28/9/44	Water from tap—47, St. David's Avenue	,,	Satisfactory.
4/10/44	Tap Water—Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road	,,	Satisfactory.
4/12/44	Main piped supply, 47, St. David's Avenue	,,	This shows a very small contamination. Chlorination is not quite adequate.
4/12/44	Main piped supply—Buffer Food Depot, Abergwili Road	,,	Shows a very small contamination. Chlorination is not quite adequate.
4/12/44	Main piped supply—Johnstown School....	,,	Shows a very small contamination. Chlorination is not quite adequate.

No new Water Supplies or Sewerage Schemes were carried out during the year.

With the exception of the Village of Trevaughan and farms situated on the outskirts of the Borough, all the houses in the Borough are supplied by water direct from the main water works, and the water has no plumbo-solvent action.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As compared with the previous year a big decrease in the number of cases of measles notified occurred, and the number of cases of diphtheria fell. There was one death from diphtheria. There was an increase in the number of whooping cough cases notified, viz., 36 cases as compared with nil for the year 1943. The value of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory in controlling outbreaks of infectious diseases continues to be inestimable, and undoubtedly prevented any spread to alarming proportions by the speed in discovering " Carriers " and their segregation.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	Borough.	Evacuees.		
Diphtheria	2	0	2	1
Scarlet Fever	10	1	8	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	0	5	2
Erysipelas	1	0	1	0
Pneumonia	5	0	5	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	0	11	0
Dysentery	14	0	13	0
Whooping Cough	32	4	1	1
Measles	6	2	2	0

Of the fourteen cases of Dysentery notified during the year, thirteen occurred at the Joint Counties Mental Hospital, Carmarthen.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is being carried out by the Medical Officer of Health at the Clinic, Pond Street, on the first Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m.

The number of children immunised at the Clinic during the year being as follows:—

Children 1—5 years—128.
Children 5—15 years—18.

On December 31st, 1944, the state of immunisation in the Borough was as follows:—

Children aged 5—15 years.

Number immunised during the year was 18, making a total of 1,340 children immunised, i.e., 92.9 per cent.

Maternity and Child Welfare Children.

Number immunised during the year was 128, making a total of 400, i.e., 71.6 per cent. of the children aged 1—5 years.

Tuberculosis.

Number of new cases on register during the year 1944 was 24 (10 males, 14 females). This shows an increase of 9 cases on the preceeding year.

Number of deaths during the year was 10 (3 males, 7 females).

New Cases of, and Mortality from, Tuberculosis.

Age Period in Years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
15—25	5	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
25—35	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
35—45	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	1
45—55	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
55—65	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	10	2	4	2	4	1	3

Rates per 1,000 Population of Notifications and Deaths.

Year.	Notifications (New Cases).	Deaths.
1939	1.8	0.63
1940	1.96	0.76
1941	1.5	1.1
1942	1.6	0.91
1943	1.3	0.79
1944	2.3	0.97

Tuberculosis.

I would once more like to stress that the Public Health Department is very concerned at the lack of housing accommodation for persons suffering from Tuberculosis. Frequently patients after staying in a Sanatorium have to return to accommodation which is overcrowded, inadequately ventilated and lighted, damp and unfit for human habitation. The good that has been accomplished at the Sanatorium is very quickly undone by such bad housing accommodation. I urge the Council to give these people a high priority when the time comes to consider tenants for houses erected at the Council's Housing Estates.

The Government Scheme, together with the County Council's Scheme for after-care of Tuberculosis patients, is helping a great deal to ameliorate the circumstances of the Tuberculous patient, but housing accommodation is still an urgent and vital necessity.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936—43.

(a) No. of Tuberculin-Tested Licences in force in Borough—15.

(b) No. of Accredited Licence holders in the Borough—16.

(c) No. of Tuberculin-Tested milk samples taken—65.

(d) No. of Accredited milk samples taken—179.

(e) No. of Ex-designated milk samples taken—11.

Samples of Milk taken—7.

No. reported as satisfactory—4.

No. reported as unsatisfactory—3.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Mr. D. R. Watkins, Chief Inspector, County Council, reports as follows on the work done under the above Act in the area of the Carmarthen Urban District Council during the year:—

Milk.

Number of samples taken—44.
Number deficient in fat—5.

The deficiences in all cases were slight, and the sellers were cautioned as legal proceedings were not considered to be justified.

Miscellaneous Articles of Food.

Samples taken—23.

Certified. Genuine—19.

The remaining four were reported to be unfit for human consumption, being infested with Meal Mite.

Drugs.

Two samples taken—both genuine.

Wines.

One sample taken of Sherry—genuine.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936—43.

Total number of samples taken—255.

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Accredited	92	87
Tuberculin Tested	37	28
Ex-Designated	7	4

Meat.

Throughout the year the abattoir in Carmarthen was used as the central place for the slaughtering of cattle. Mr. E. W. Francis, the Sanitary Inspector, has, with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspectors of the Rural District, carried out the inspection of carcases slaughtered there.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed, if known	1246	2402	10401	26
Number inspected	1246	2402	10401	26
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcases condemned	19	10	16	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	28	5	9	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	3.77%	0.62%	0.24%	23%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcases condemned	3			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	0.48%			

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	25
Drainage	103
Offensive Trades	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds	—
Factories	—
Workshops	10
Workplaces	10
Bakehouses	12
Public Conveniences	51
Refuse Collection	16
Refuse Disposal	21
Rats and Mice	309
Schools	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	228

HOUSING.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.	No. of Visits.
Under Public Health Acts.	
Number of houses inspected	108
Visits paid to above houses	108
Under Housing Acts.	
Number of houses inspected	Nil.
Visits paid to above houses	Nil.
Overcrowding.	
Number of houses inspected	94
Visits paid to above houses	94
Verminous Premises.	
Number of houses inspected	16
Visits paid to above houses	16
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	91

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease ...	10
Miscellaneous Infectious Diseases Visits ...	15
No. of rooms disinfected	29
No. of times Steam disinfector used	41

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops.

No. of Slaughterhouses in area	1
No. of Slaughterhouses visited	1
No. of visits made to above Slaughterhouses ...	415
No. of visits to Shops and Stalls	312
No. of visits to butchers	1,560

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of producers in area	73
No. of retail purveyors in area	31
No. of visits to cowsheds	23
No. of new cowsheds provided	—
No. of cowsheds reconditioned	—

NOTICES SERVED.

Under the Housing Acts.

No. of informal notices served	Nil.
No. of informal notices complied with ...	Nil.
No. of formal notices served	Nil.
No. of formal notices complied with	Nil.

Under the Public Health Acts.

No. of informal notices served	30
No. of informal notices complied with ...	28
No. of formal notices served	2
No. of formal notices complied with	2

Under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of informal notices served	Nil.
No. of informal notices complied with ...	Nil.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	108
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	108
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulation, 1925	98
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	98

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 8

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 30

2. **Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 40

3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year.**

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) by owners 2

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 30

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) by owners 30

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been renderd fit ... ... Nil.

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	91
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	95
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	403
(b)	(i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7